

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1. Please amend claims 4-8.

1-3. (Withdrawn)

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~multiple-ply paper gusseted bag~~ having a plurality of continuous plies, comprising: ~~a plurality of paper plies, wherein paper ply layers are secured together only along exposed edges of the overlapping plies, the main body portion of the bag having multiple plies which are substantially unsecured to adjacent plies along the front, rear, and side walls of a multiple-ply bag;~~

an inner ply layer comprising a paper having a laminated surface, the laminated surface defining an innermost surface of the ~~multiple-ply gusseted~~ bag;

a second ply layer of an uncoated paper adjacent ~~positioned between an uncoated surface of said inner ply~~ and a third ply layer, said

~~[a]~~ third ply layer of ~~comprising~~ an uncoated paper positioned between said second ply layer and a fourth ply layer, said fourth ply layer defining an exterior paper ply of said ~~multi-ply gusseted~~ bag, said fourth ply layer further defining having a coating of a 5 to 15 lb. weight/3000 sq. ft. of polyethylene and a film layer applied to a surface of said polyethylene, said film layer comprising a biaxially oriented film selected from the group consisting of a biaxially oriented polypropylene film, a biaxially oriented polyethylene film, a metallized film of biaxially oriented polypropylene, and a metallized film of biaxially oriented polyester;

wherein said ~~multiple-ply gusseted~~ bag has increased burst resistance and improved tear strength than a comparable four-ply bag without said film layer.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~multiple-ply gusseted~~ bag according to claim 4 wherein said fourth ply layer comprises a paper having a fiber content of about a 35 to about a 90 lb. basis weight.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~multiple-ply~~ gusseted bag according to claim 4 wherein said fourth ply has a film layer selected from the group consisting of metallized films of biaxially oriented polypropylene and metallized films of biaxially oriented polyester, said ~~multiple-ply~~ gusseted bag further having a WVTR of about 0.01 g/100 in.<sup>2</sup>/24 hrs. or less.
7. (Currently Amended) The ~~multiple-ply~~ gusseted bag according to claim 4 wherein at least one of said second and said third ply layers is provided by a converter kraft paper.
8. (Currently Amended) The ~~multiple-ply~~ gusseted bag according to claim 4 wherein said second ply and said third ply are provided by a converter kraft paper.